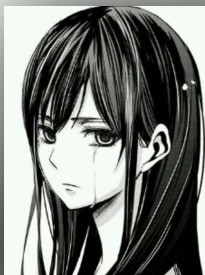




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Virus in the Soul



19 0 2

Chapter 1 by Ravenisk

She was lonely, so lonely. She yearned for at least one person in her life. After all, her family had abandoned her, all her friends left; they were all too scared to get near her and her curse. She was growing accustomed to not being around people, though she was still alarmed when someone drew near her, for she knew they wouldn't last long amid her presence. All her life, everything she touched withered and died, or even caught a virus and slowly withered away. The one thing she didn't know, was that she was going to free herself from these chains soon.

Today was an average day for Kathy, no one around to talk to. Her expression would still grow dark when the plants around her faded from existence as they turned darker from her touch. She was surprised no one had found her, considering that she was making a path of black ashes from the plants she killed in her path. She wasn't expecting anything to change when a young boy, about her age stumbled upon her. She knew he wouldn't last long, so she moved on quickly, a tad nervous from being in the company of an actual human being. Kathy looked back hoping to see only darkness, but the mysterious lad kept following her. In only a second, he appeared behind her, and a single drop of sweat trickled down her head. The boy stepped forward, a grim look still on his face as he said, "I have heard rumors about you, but I didn't think they were

true." Kathy took a step back and averted her eyes from his. Even after everything that had happened, she somehow felt a slight relief. He took another cautious step forward and spoke once more, "I want to help you, but I don't know how." Kathy gasped, then turned away and spoke quietly, "You can't." The boy's expression made her think that he thought differently. Kathy took in a deep breath, finally admitting to herself that she could trust

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him. And thus she began explaining how this happened. As she spoke, a single tear roled down her cheek.

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